



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

THE FLAME

Emergency Services News Letter



FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS **FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS** **FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

DECEMBER, 2007

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Open Burning in North Carolina Guidance from an Air Pollution Investigator Stephen M. Moser

Open Burning in North Carolina is controlled and regulated by many different government agencies that administer different laws, regulations and ordinances. The North Carolina Division of Air Quality regulates and enforces open burning only as it relates to air pollution, health and nuisances. The air pollution regulations governing open burning differ from other regulations, since the regulations are primarily concerned with smoke and harmful gasses released from open burning, and generally do not address fire safety or protection of property or woodlands.

The open burning regulations related to air pollution are contained in part 15 of the North Carolina Administrative code, chapter 2D, section .1900 "Open Burning" The specific regulations are 15A NCAC 2D .1901 through .1906. These regulations do not tell you what you cannot burn. Rather, they prohibit all open burning, with certain exceptions that are referred to as permissible burnings. In summary, the most common exceptions are as follows:

Yard Waste:

In certain situations, residential property dwellers can burn vegetative yard waste, such as tree limbs, leaves, and yard trimmings. In these cases the materials to be burned must be burned on the residential site where they originate. The materials cannot be moved off site and burned. Only persons at residences may burn yard waste. Businesses may not burn these materials. Yard waste may only be burned in locations where public pickup services for the waste are not provided. If your municipality will come to your curbside and take your yard waste, you may not burn it. If you are allowed to burn the waste, it must be burned between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and may not create a nuisance. No stumps or logs over 6 inches in diameter may be burned, and in no case may garbage or man made items be burned. You may not burn junk mail or other personal papers.



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**“How
will
everyone
escape?”**

Escape Planning



Imagine a fire burning in your home, with your family fast asleep. Smoke and heat intensify quickly. Every second counts. How will everyone escape? Without a plan, you may not know the best route to safety.

Create an escape plan and make sure everyone in your home practices it. Plan two routes of escape from every room and designate a meeting place outside of the home. Remember: get out and stay out.

This message is brought to you by the United States Fire Administration

**“Burning
Ban is
still in
Effect”**

NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online
www.dfr.state.nc.us



Upcoming Events / Deadlines

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Fire Chief's Association Meeting - Jonesville VFD | January 2, 2008 |
| • Fire & Rescue Association Meeting - Rescue Squad | January 17, 2008 |
| • Local Emergency Planning Committee - Yadkinville VFD | February 7, 2008 |
| • 1st Responder Committee Meeting - Yadkin Campus SCC | April 16, 2008 |

Open Burning in North Carolina

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Land Clearing Debris:

Vegetative material that has been removed as a result of land clearing activities may be burned under certain conditions. Normally you need to be 1000 feet or more from an occupied structure unless the structure is on the property where the burning is to occur. An occupied structure is any building where people may live or work, or is intended to house animals. In certain cases where the 1000-foot clearance cannot be met, a waiver can be granted. Obtaining the waiver is not automatic. The person intending to burn must obtain written permission from everyone closer than 1000 feet. After that, the person intending to burn must obtain permission from the Regional Supervisor of the Air Quality Regional Office serving the area. As with the yard waste, initial burning can only be done between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and no more material may be burned until 8:00 AM the following day.

Banned Burning:

Both types of burning described above are not allowed if the forecasted Air Quality Index for the area is code orange or worse. Burning is allowed only on days forecasted to be code green or yellow. Additionally, if the NC Division of Forest Resources had issued a burn ban for the area, the above types of burning are also banned under the air quality regulations.

Other Types of Burning:

Certain other types of burning are sometimes allowed. For instance, fire departments can burn structures and vehicles for training if prior approval is obtained from the Division of Air Quality, and in the case of most structures, also from the Health Hazards Control Unit. Certain people may burn explosives or explosive containers, but for the average citizen, anything synthetic may not be burned.

A good rule of thumb is: "If it doesn't grow, don't burn it."

Also, remember that complying with the air quality open burning regulations is only part of your responsibility. You must also comply with any forestry or fire code regulations as well. Compliance with one agency's regulations does not guarantee compliance with another's.

For more information see the Division's web site at:

<http://daq.state.nc.us/enf/openburn/>



Illegal to Burn Trash

Ask the Fire Marshal



Can you explain the Response Plans for grass / woods fires and when does the Forest Service respond?

We have developed two Response Plans based on fire weather forecasts from the National Weather Service. The NWS issues fire weather forecasts twice each day and updates as needed. The NWS will issue watches and warnings to alert people about the potential for extreme fire behavior.

A Response Plan I is a normal one department dispatch. Occasional fire activity is expected and fires under this response plan can normally be handled by one fire department.

A Response Plan II is issued when forecast weather conditions together with existing environmental conditions could result in extreme fire behavior. Wildfires under these conditions would likely need a multi-agency response to suppress the fire. Two fire departments are dispatched on a Response Plan II.

The County Forest Rangers will be automatically dispatched to every woods, brush, or grass fires occurring within the jurisdictional boundaries of Yadkin County. The Rangers will also be dispatched at the request of any fire department or emergency personnel in need of assistance.

Fire Departments - Receive NC Forest Service Grant

Arlington Fire & Rescue and Buck Shoals VFD have both received the NC Division of Forest Resources Volunteer Fire Assistance Award Program Grant. This program provides financial assistance to volunteer fire departments serving a population less than 10,000 people for purchasing Personal Protective Equipment designed for use while suppressing wildland fires.

Arlington Fire & Rescue	\$1871.00
Buck Shoals VFD	\$1973.00



A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety



Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

- **Caring for Your Tree**

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

- **Disposing of Your Tree**

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.



**Pension Fund Roster
and Certification Due
January 1, 2008**



Fire Safety Day at Courtney Elementary School

Courtney, Lone Hickory and Yadkinville Fire Departments held Fire Safety / Fire Prevention Day at Courtney Elementary School on October 23, 2007. Topics covered were Don't Play with matches, smoke detectors, crawl low in smoke, make and practice an escape plan, the importance of have a meeting place, Stop Drop and Roll and calling 911. We cover all these topics from Pre-K through the Sixth Grade. We would like to thank William R. Davie for the use of Sparky Robot, Lewisville Fire Department for the Fire Safety House and the NC Forest Service for Smokey the Bear. Also, we would like to thank Lone Hickory and Yadkinville Fire Departments for the equipment and personnel that helped out.



No One Should Die in a House Fire!

Dempsey Brewer, P.E.

President, Brewer Technologies, Inc.

More Americans die from fire than all natural disasters combined! U.S. Fire Administration 2006 data reports 3,245 people killed, 6,400 injured, 106 firefighters killed and with total costs exceeding \$165 billion. During the last 10 years, 40,225 people have died from fire, 81% of them from house fires. While the number of fires has declined, the ratio of deaths to fires has remained the same. The South, with North Carolina 12th, retains 12 of the 16 highest fire fatality rates in the Nation according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) data. Yadkin County is blessed to have the lowest fire fatality rate in North Carolina, although any fatality is too much. The years of fire safety training, smoke detector programs, and the excellent response of the Volunteer Fire Departments and EMS may be paying off.

Cooking, especially unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires and resultant injuries accordingly to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). Typically the stove burner has been left on while the homeowner has gone to bed, left the house, or simply got sidetracked. Most injuries occur when the homeowner tries to put the fire out. Candles are the second leading cause of home fire injuries. The majority of home fire deaths are blamed on accidental igniting of upholstered furniture, home heating equipment, and arson, in that order. Alcohol use has been estimated to be a contributing factor in 40% of residential fire deaths.

Smoke alarms are so essential because we may spend around a third of our time asleep and homes are getting larger. My very own family was once awakened by the blaring sound of a smoke alarm. Fortunately no one was injured, though our home was totally destroyed. Nationally, two-thirds of all fire deaths occur where there was no working smoke detector. There was no alarm at all in half of the deaths.

Nuisance alarms are the leading reason for disabling smoke alarms. False alarms may be caused by a combination of improper installation of the wrong type of alarm in the wrong place, improper maintenance, cleaning material fumes, moisture, exhaust hoods, dryers, etc. The most common type of smoke alarm used today is the ionization type. These alarms are ideal choices for the living room, family rooms, recreation rooms and may be used in bedrooms and hallways. Photoelectric smoke alarms, may be better suited to detect larger smoke particles such as those emitted from smoldering, slow burning fires. They are best used in hallways, especially near bathrooms, and in or near kitchens, or in places where ionization type alarms cause false alarms. One choice for bedrooms and other sleeping areas is the combination ionization and photoelectric sensor alarm. Heat detectors may be used in kitchens, furnace rooms, garages or anywhere you want extra protection or where smoke detection would cause false alarms. Never use heat detectors of any brand or type as the sole means of fire detection in your house!

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No One Should Die in a House Fire Continued

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They never got around to replacing it and a fire broke out the following day.” Newer detectors have sealed 10 year lithium batteries and smart silence features can help defeat this problem. Replace all smoke detectors over 10 years old. All things made by man can and will fail eventually. Location means everything in fire detection. Every home, even a one room log cabin, needs at least two smoke detectors. Consider the following New York Times report “A woman, her 11-month-old son and the homeowner (who tried twice to save them) were killed ...in a fire that swept through their two-story home ... only one smoke detector was found in the house, in the basement ...”. The NFPA *National Fire Alarm Code 2007 Edition* requires at least 1 smoke alarm on each level of a house and sometimes more. There must also be one in every bedroom and one outside each sleeping area. Also consider smoke and heat detector combinations in the kitchen, laundry and furnace rooms, and don't forget visual or vibrating alarms for the hearing impaired. You want the smoke to reach the detector well before it reaches you! They should be interconnected so if any alarm is triggered, they all sound. Many Fire Departments have free smoke alarm programs, and you may buy from many places including brewertec.com, but please get them somewhere!

You must have a plan on what to do in case of fire. Plan several escape routes, include two ways out of every room and provide escape ladders where needed. Locate a meeting place and practice your plan.

As a father, a volunteer firefighter with 25 years experience, a registered Professional Engineer, and as president of a home safety business, I urge you to use all available tools to prevent fire related deaths.

For more info see <http://www.BrewerTec.com>

Forbush Fire Department

Submitted By: Dale Couch



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Forbush Fire Department has received a 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA. The total amount of the grant is \$87,015. Forbush Fire Department's contribution for this grant is \$4,350 or 5%. This grant will assist with the purchase of a plymovent vehicle exhaust system and a self contained SCBA refill station.

2007-2008 Winter Outlook

Submitted By: Phil Hysell, National Weather Service

Written By: Lead Forecaster Jan Jackson

We have entered a cold episode of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, called La Niña, and these conditions are expected to further develop and possibly strengthen into December. What this means for our area is that much of the east coast, and particularly the southeast US coast, is likely to be drier than normal. On the other hand, the Tennessee and lower Ohio valleys are likely to be wetter than normal, (Figure 1). Much of the southern, and eastern US is warmer than normal. Note the area of near normal temperatures over a large portion of central and southwest Virginia, and small portions of northwest North Carolina and southeast West Virginia, (Figure 2). This closely matches the area that experiences Cold Air Damming (CAD), and implies a lot of mixed wintry precipitation events into a shallow cold air mass. In addition, the precipitation anomalies with wetter than normal conditions over the Tennessee and lower Ohio valleys implies storm tracks west of the Appalachians, which would lead to more CAD and mixed precipitation events.

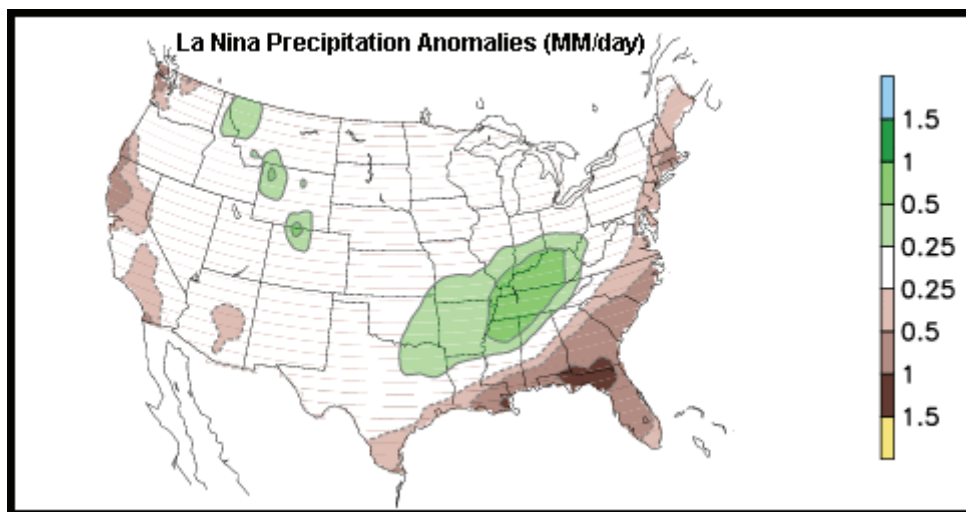


Figure 1. La Nina Precipitation

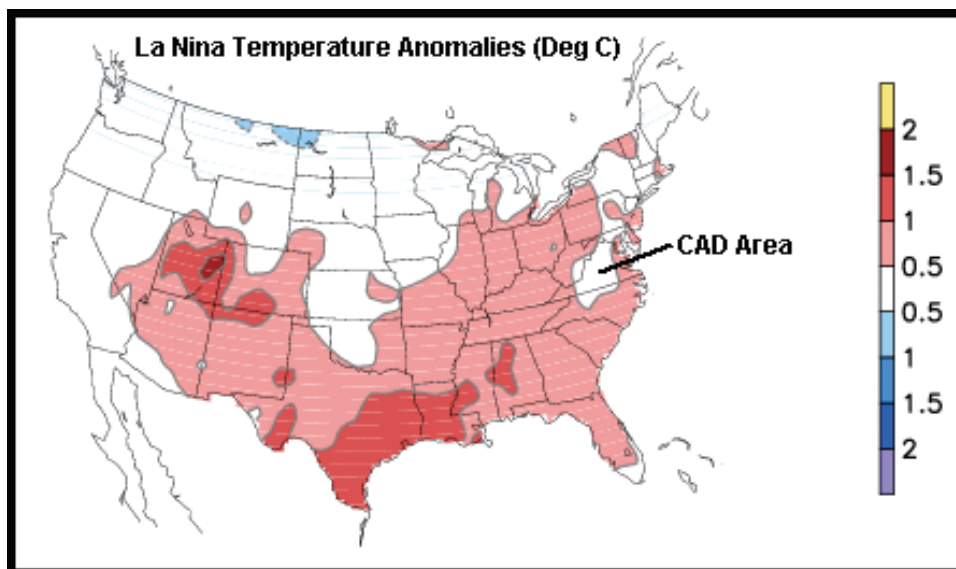


Figure 2. La Nina Temperature Anomalies

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2007-2008 Winter Outlook

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Below are the official Climate Prediction Center's winter forecasts of precipitation, (Figure 3), and temperature, (Figure 4), which take into account several other factors besides La Nina.

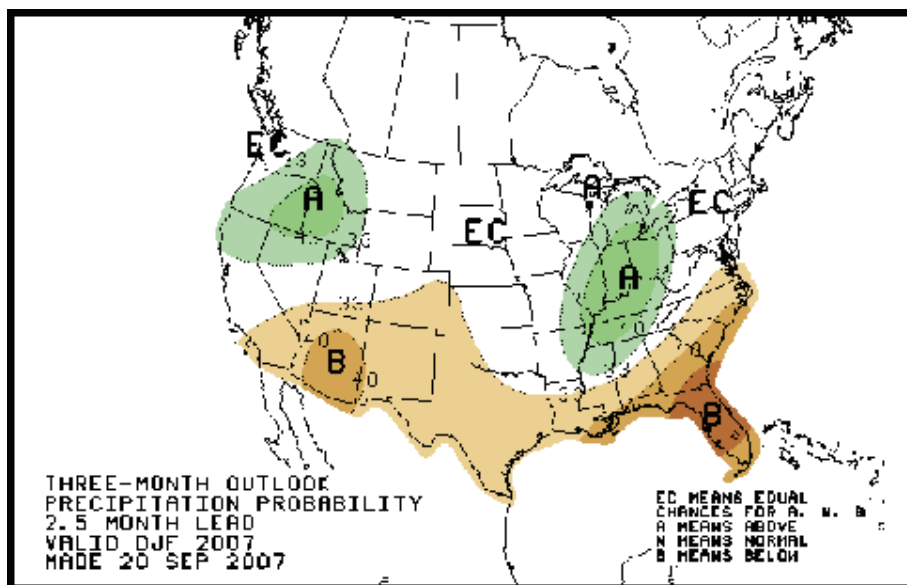


Figure 3. Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Winter Outlook for Precipitation

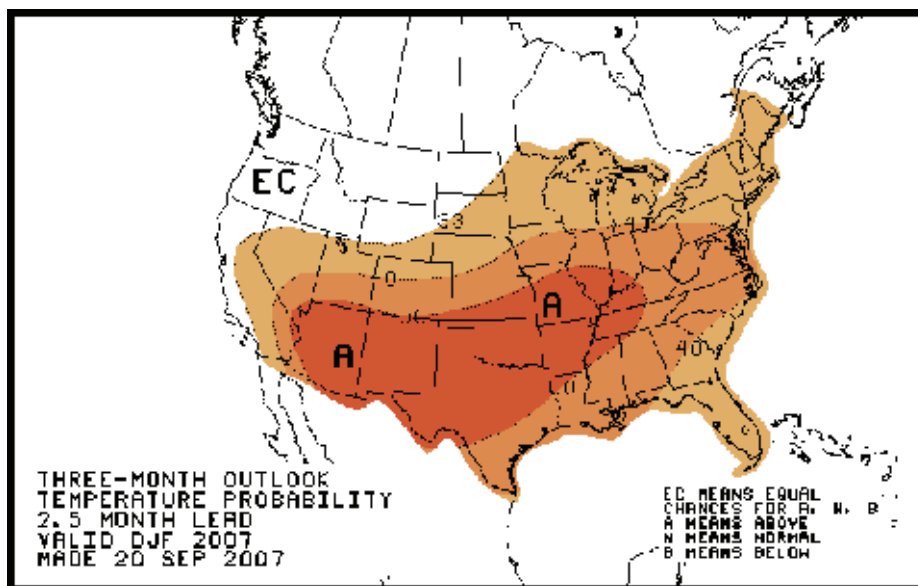


Figure 4. Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Winter Outlook for Temperature

To summarize...with a La Nina that is expected to strengthen, this coming winter will likely be mild overall, with warmer than normal temperatures, and less than normal snowfall. Much of the Blacksburg forecast area has equal chances of above or below normal precipitation, but eastern piedmont areas have a slightly better chance of being drier than normal, while western slope areas in the mountains have a slightly better chance of being above normal. There are some indications that the storm track in La Nina winters in the eastern U.S. is mainly west of the Appalachians, which would tend to produce more mixed wintry precipitation events for the Blacksburg forecast area with shallow Cold Air Damming events. Thus, while snowfall will likely be below normal, we may still see a lot of sleet and/or freezing rain.

East Bend VFD

Sponsors Haunted House and Halloween Carnival

Submitted By: David Matthews

The East Bend VFD held a haunted house and Halloween carnival on October 31, 2007 at the fire station. They had about 200 people attend and raised \$855.00 from the haunted house. All the proceeds will go to the Brenner's Children Hospital. They would like to thank the members of the Fall Creek VFD for all their help with this event.



Cooking Fire Safety



This time of year many families gather in the kitchen to spend time together. It can be a recipe for danger if you don't practice safe cooking habits. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Use these safety tips not only this holiday season but every time you cook.

- ☑ Don't leave the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- ☑ If you are simmering, baking roasting or boiling food, check it regularly and remain in the home. Use a timer.
- ☑ Keep anything that will burn; potholders, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, etc. away from the stove top.
- ☑ Never wear loose fitting clothing when cooking. Dangling sleeves can touch the burner and catch fire.
- ☑ Keep young children at least 3 feet from the cooking area.
- ☑ Keep pot handles turned away from the stoves edge.
- ☑ If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll.
- ☑ NEVER throw water on a cooking fire. Take an oven mitten if possible and slide a lid onto the pan. Turn off burner and leave pan alone until completely cool.
- ☑ In case of oven fire, turn off and leave door closed.
- ☑ If in doubt, make sure everyone is out of the house and call 9-1-1.

Source: United States Fire Administration

NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

Submit news letter information to Eddie Weatherman

eweatherman@yadkincountync.gov

To receive a copy of the news letter, send email request.

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